

RETURN DATE: APRIL 20, 2021 : SUPERIOR COURT

GREGORY B. SMITH,
NICHOLAS ENGSTROM, and : J.D. OF HARTFORD
THE CHURCHILL INSTITUTE, INC.

VS. : AT HARTFORD

AARON SUPPLE, KAREN MONTEJO,
HENDRICK XIONG-CALMES, : MARCH 26, 2021
GIANNA MORENO, HUNTER SAVERY,
GILLIAN REINHARD, and
THE TRINITY TRIPOD

COMPLAINT

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. The Plaintiff Gregory B. Smith ("Plaintiff" or "Professor Smith") is Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Trinity College ("Trinity"), in Hartford, Connecticut and is a domiciliary of Winfield, Illinois. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiff was transacting business in Connecticut within the course and scope of his employment.

2. In addition to his faculty position at Trinity, Plaintiff is the founder and president of The Churchill Institute, Inc. for the Study and Extension of Western Civilization ("Churchill Institute" or "Institute").

3. The Plaintiff Churchill Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation registered in Connecticut. At all times mentioned herein, the Institute was transacting business within Connecticut.

4. The Plaintiff Nicholas Engstrom ("Engstrom") was at all times relevant to this complaint, an undergraduate student enrolled at Trinity, a member of the student organization the "Churchill Club," and is presently a resident of Swampscott, Massachusetts.

5. The Defendant Aaron Supple ("Supple") was at all times relevant to this complaint, an undergraduate student enrolled at Trinity and is a resident of New Britain, Connecticut.

6. The Defendant Hunter Savery ("Savery") was at all times relevant to this complaint, an undergraduate student enrolled at Trinity, an editor of the Trinity Tripod, a resident of Hartford, Connecticut and presently resides in Harwich, Massachusetts.

7. The Defendant Karen Navarrete Montejo ("Montejo") was at all times relevant to this complaint, an undergraduate student enrolled at Trinity, a resident of Hartford, Connecticut, and presently resides in West Hartford, Connecticut.

8. The Defendant Hendrick Xiong-Calmes ("Xiong-Calmes") is and was at all times relevant to this complaint, an undergraduate student enrolled at Trinity and presently resides in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

9. The Defendant Giana Moreno ("Moreno") was at all times relevant to this complaint, an undergraduate student enrolled at Trinity, a resident of Hartford, Connecticut, and presently resides in Berwyn, Illinois

10. The Defendant Gillian Reinhard ("Reinhard") was at all times relevant to this complaint, an undergraduate student enrolled at Trinity, the editor-in-chief of the Trinity Tripod, a resident of Hartford, Connecticut, and presently resides in Cheshire, Connecticut.

11. At all times relevant to this complaint, the Defendant the Trinity Tripod ("Tripod") is and was an independent or semi-independent newspaper and media outlet primarily funded by Trinity College, Inc. ("Trinity") doing business in Hartford, Connecticut.

12. At all relevant times herein, Professor Smith was the faculty advisor to the Churchill Club, a student organization inspired by the Churchill Institute that focuses on the study of Western Civilization, philosophy, and tradition.

13. On or about early March, 2019, student-members of the Churchill Club applied for "formal recognition" by the Student Government Association ("SGA"). Formal recognition is a routine procedural mechanism through which the Churchill Club would be eligible to host events on college property and to apply for funding from the Student Activities Fund.

14. Before a group can be formally recognized, it must draft a constitution, obtain the signature of twenty-five interested students, and appear before the SGA governing body for questions.

15. Having satisfied the first two prerequisites, the Churchill Club ("Club") student representatives appeared before the SGA on March 3, 2019 and were questioned for

approximately ninety minutes. Dozens of student protestors attended this hearing to protest against a decision to formally recognize the Club. Due in part to the protestations, the SGA continued the vote on whether to recognize the Club until March 10, 2019.

16. Protest against the Club's recognition persisted during the March 10, 2019 SGA meeting. The SGA again failed to hold a vote but declared that a "public forum" or "town hall" would be held at a future date on the subject of whether to formally recognize the Club.

17. On March 31, 2019 the SGA announced a pair of "drop-in student town halls" scheduled for April 10 and April 11.

18. On or about April 1, 2019, Defendants Savery and Reinhard ("Tripod Defendants") were student members of the Tripod, a student-run newspaper and media outlet. At all times relevant herein, the Tripod Defendants were engaged and/or served as writers, editors, and/or publishers of the Tripod. Reinhard served as the editor-in-chief of the newspaper, and Savery served as an opinion editor. All Tripod content is, upon information and belief, created, edited, and published by its student members.

19. On or about April 1, 2019, the Tripod published an issue called the "Liepod," a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Liepod is purportedly a satirical and/or farcical issue released on April Fool's Day.

20. The April 1st Liepod issue featured a front page article titled "SGA Considers Fascist Society Approval" ("Article") in reference to the controversy over the Club's application for formal recognition. Savery wrote the article under the byline "Cucker Tarlson." Savery wrote: "The SGA Senate is in turmoil debating the merits of allowing fascism on campus" in reference to the proceedings related to the Club's application. Savery went on to characterize the Club, its student-members, and advisor (Professor Smith), as the "Trinity College Fascist Society," whose "aim is to promote and defend fascism, which they see as under attack in the modern world."

21. Savery further stated that granting the Club's application would be comparable to the Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Adolph Hitler in the 1930s. Exhibit A ("SGA President Chamberlain has suggested a compromise of giving the Fascists approval and part of the funding allocated for the Czechoslovakian club. When it was pointed out that this was not a compromise at all, the President insisted that it would bring Trinity 'peace in our time.'") Savery concludes the article by stating: "The SGA really has its work cut out for it, only time will tell if Trinity in 2019 is the new Weimar Germany."

22. At the time of the April 1st, 2019 "Liepod" publication Reinhard, the Tripod's Editor-in-Chief, reviewed, edited, approved, and published the Article.

23. On April 10, 2019, one day before the first scheduled "town hall" event, Defendants Supple, Montejo, Xiong-Calmes, and Moreno (collectively "Flyer Defendants")

posted multiple flyers, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B, on campus featuring the Churchill Institute logo, a photograph of the Plaintiff, and, above his photograph, the phrase: "the new racism is every bit as ugly as the old." Identical flyers were posted featuring a photograph of Engstrom, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

24. Following an investigation by the College, the Flyer Defendants were found to be responsible for creating, printing, and publishing the flyers.

COUNT ONE: Defamation of Plaintiff Smith; Libel Per Se as to the Flyer Defendants

1-24. Paragraphs 1-24 of this Complaint are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count One as if more fully set forth herein.

25. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per se* in that the Flyer Defendants' public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation.

26. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendants knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the same with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

27. As a direct result of the Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the

esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his career. Furthermore, fellow academics, peers, and colleagues no longer associate with Plaintiff. Some or all of the aforesaid injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

28. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, anxiety, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

29. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered economic damages in that previously available opportunities, offers, and other sources of revenue generation and/or publicity, including but not limited to, lectureships, speaking events, and consulting, have been withdrawn or are no long available to him and are unlikely to be made available to him in the future.

30. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT TWO: Defamation of Plaintiff Smith; Libel Per Quod as to the Flyer Defendants

1-24. Paragraphs 1-24 of this Complaint are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Two as if more fully set forth herein.

25. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per quod* in that the Flyer Defendants' public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation.

26. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendants knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the same with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

27. As a direct result of the Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his career. Furthermore, fellow academics, peers, and colleagues no longer associate with Plaintiff. Some or all of the aforesaid injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

28. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, anxiety, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

29. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered economic damages in that previously available opportunities, offers, and other sources of revenue generation and/or publicity, including but not limited to, lectureships, speaking events, and consulting, have been withdrawn or are no long available to him and are unlikely to be made available to him in the future.

30. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT THREE: Defamation of Churchill Institute; Libel Per Se as to the Flyers Defendants

1-24. Paragraphs 1-24 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Three as if more fully set forth herein.

25. Additional flyers included photographs of Institute senior fellows, students associated with the Institute, and Institute board members, including Plaintiff's wife. Each such flyer featured the Churchill Institute logo and the phrase: "the new racism is every bit as ugly as the old" above the featured individual's photograph.

26. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per se* in that the Defendant's public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Churchill Institute and/or to injure its reputation and cause financial injury.

27. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendant knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

28. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Institute has suffered and will continue to suffer economic damages and loss, including, but not limited to, the withdrawal of not less than \$50,000.00 in funding and substantial, long-term damage to its brand, goodwill, and reputation.

29. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, the Institute has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT FOUR: Defamation of Churchill Institute; Libel Per Quod as to the Flyers Defendants

1-24. Paragraphs 1-24 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Four as if more fully set forth herein.

25. Additional flyers included photographs of Institute senior fellows, students associated with the Institute, and Institute board members, including Plaintiff's wife. Each such flyer featured the Churchill Institute logo and the phrase: "the new racism is every bit as ugly as the old" above the featured individual's photograph.

26. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per quod* in that the Defendants' public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse,

derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Churchill Institute and/or to injure its reputation and cause financial injury. To the extent that any of the aforementioned statements were not explicitly libelous, said statements constitute libel *per quod* as a result of facts known by the recipients.

27. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendant knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

28. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Institute has suffered and will continue to suffer economic damages and loss, including, but not limited to, the withdrawal of not less than \$50,000.00 in funding and substantial, long-term damage to its brand, goodwill, and reputation.

29. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, the Institute has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT FIVE: Defamation of Plaintiff Smith; Libel Per Se as to Savery

1-21. Paragraphs 1-21 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-21 of this Count Five as if more fully set forth herein.

22. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per se* in that Savery's public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or

unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation.

23. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendant knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

24. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his career. Said injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

25. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, anxiety, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

26. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered economic damages in that previously available opportunities, offers, and other sources of revenue generation and/or publicity, including but not limited to, lectureships, speaking

events, and consulting, have been withdrawn or are no long available to him and are unlikely to be made available to him in the future.

27. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

28. As a direct result of the Defendant's libel *per se*, the Plaintiff is entitled to general, special, and punitive damages.

COUNT SIX: Defamation of Plaintiff Smith; Libel Per Quod as to Savery

1-21. Paragraphs 1-21 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-21 of this Count Six as if more fully set forth herein.

22. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per quod* in that the Defendant's public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation. To the extent that any of the aforementioned statements were not explicitly libelous, said statements constitute libel *per quod* as a result of facts known by the recipients.

23. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendant knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

24. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his career. Said injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

25. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, anxiety, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

26. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered economic damages in that previously available opportunities, offers, and other sources of revenue generation and/or publicity, including but not limited to, lectureships, speaking events, and consulting, have been withdrawn or are no long available to him and are unlikely to be made available to him in the future.

27. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT SEVEN: Defamation of Plaintiff Smith; Libel Per Se as to Reinhard

1-22. Paragraphs 1-22 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-22 of this Count Seven as if more fully set forth herein.

23. A principal is liable for her agent's defamatory statements if she apparently authorized the agent to make such statements. At all times mentioned herein, Savery was an agent of Reinhard operating within the scope of his agency. As the editor-in-chief of the Tripod, Reinhard authorized the publication of Savery's defamatory statements.

24. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per se* in that the Defendant's public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation.

25. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendant knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

26. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout

his career. Said injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

27. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

28. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered economic damages in that previously available opportunities, offers, and other sources of revenue generation and/or publicity, including but not limited to, lectureships, speaking events, and consulting, have been withdrawn or are no long available to him and are unlikely to be made available to him in the future.

29. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT EIGHT: Defamation of Plaintiff Smith; Libel Per Quod as to Reinhard

1-22. Paragraphs 1-22 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-22 of this Count Eight as if more fully set forth herein.

23. A principal is liable for her agent's defamatory statements if she apparently authorized the agent to make such statements. At all times mentioned herein, Savery was

an agent of Reinhard operating within the scope of his agency. As the editor-in-chief of the Tripod, Reinhard authorized the publication of Savery's defamatory statements.

24. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per quod* in that the Defendant's public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation. To the extent that any of the aforementioned statements were not explicitly libelous, said statements constitute libel *per quod* as a result of facts known by the recipients.

25. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendant knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

26. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his career. Said injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

27 As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation,

fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

28. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered economic damages in that previously available opportunities, offers, and other sources of revenue generation and/or publicity, including but not limited to, lectureships, speaking events, and consulting, have been withdrawn or are no long available to him and are unlikely to be made available to him in the future.

29. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT NINE: Defamation of Plaintiff Smith; Libel Per Se as to Tripod

1-22. Paragraphs 1-22 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-22 of this Count Nine as if more fully set forth herein.

23. A principal is liable for its agent's defamatory statements if it apparently authorized the agent to make such statements. At all times mentioned herein, the Tripod Defendants were agents of Tripod, and Tripod authorized the publication of Savery's defamatory statements.

24. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per se* in that the Defendant's public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation.

25. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendant knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

26. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his career. Said injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

27. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

28. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered economic damages in that previously available opportunities, offers, and other sources of revenue generation and/or publicity, including but not limited to, lectureships, speaking events, and consulting, have been withdrawn or are no long available to him and are unlikely to be made available to him in the future.

29. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT TEN: Defamation of Plaintiff Smith; Libel Per Quod as to Tripod

1-22. Paragraphs 1-22 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-22 of this Count Ten as if more fully set forth herein.

23. A principal is liable for its agent's defamatory statements if it apparently authorized the agent to make such statements. At all times mentioned herein, the Tripod Defendants were agents of Tripod, and Tripod authorized the publication of Savery's defamatory statements.

24. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per quod* in that the Defendant's public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation. To the extent that any of the aforementioned statements were not explicitly libelous, said statements constitute libel *per quod* as a result of facts known by the recipients.

25. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendant knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

26. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his career. Said injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

27. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

28. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT ELEVEN: Defamation of Chuchill Institute; Libel Per Se as to Defendants Savery, Reinhard, and Tripod

1-22. Paragraphs 1-22 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Eleven as if more fully set forth herein.

23. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per se* in that Savery's public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or

unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation.

24. A principal is liable for her agent's defamatory statements if she apparently authorized the agent to make such statements. At all times mentioned herein, Savery was an agent of Reinhard operating within the scope of his agency. As the editor-in-chief of the Tripod, Reinhard authorized the publication of Savery's defamatory statements.

25. A principal is liable for its agent's defamatory statements if it apparently authorized the agent to make such statements. At all times mentioned herein, the Tripod Defendants were agents of Tripod, and Tripod authorized the publication of Savery's defamatory statements.

26. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendants knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

27. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Institute has suffered and will continue to suffer economic damages and loss, including, but not limited to, the withdrawal of not less than \$50,000.00 in funding and substantial, long-term damage to its brand, goodwill, and reputation.

28. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT TWELVE: Defamation of Churchill Institute; Libel Per Quod as Defendants Savery, Reinhard, and Tripod

1-22. Paragraphs 1-22 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Twelve as if more fully set forth herein.

23. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per quod* in that the Defendants' public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Churchill Institute and/or to injure its reputation and cause financial injury. To the extent that any of the aforementioned statements were not explicitly libelous, said statements constitute libel *per quod* as a result of facts known by the recipients.

24. A principal is liable for her agent's defamatory statements if she apparently authorized the agent to make such statements. At all times mentioned herein, Savery was an agent of Reinhard operating within the scope of his agency. As the editor-in-chief of the Tripod, Reinhard authorized the publication of Savery's defamatory statements.

25. A principal is liable for its agent's defamatory statements if it apparently authorized the agent to make such statements. At all times mentioned herein, the Tripod Defendants were agents of Tripod, and Tripod authorized the publication of Savery's defamatory statements.

26. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendant knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

27. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct, the Institute has suffered and will continue to suffer economic damages and loss, including, but not limited to, the withdrawal of not less than \$50,000.00 in funding and substantial, long-term damage to its brand, goodwill, and reputation.

28. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, the Institute has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT THIRTEEN: Defamation of Plaintiff Engstrom; Libel Per Se as to the Flyer Defendants

1-24. Paragraphs 1-24 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Thirteen as if more fully set forth herein.

25. The foregoing conduct constitutes defamation in that the Defendants' public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation, as well as his reputation in the Trinity community, including Trinity faculty, staff, and students.

26. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendants knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the statements with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

27. As a direct result of the Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendants have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his life, as well as that which he would and should have generated in the future; as a direct result of the Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff was denied and/or lost job opportunities, internship opportunities, and was ultimately compelled to transfer to another university. Some or all of said injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

28. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

29. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT FOURTEEN: Defamation of Plaintiff Engstrom; Libel Per Quod as to the Flyer Defendants

1-24. Paragraphs 1-24 of this Complaint are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Fourteen as if more fully set forth herein.

25. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per quod* in that the Flyer Defendants' public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation. To the extent that any of the aforementioned statements were not explicitly libelous, said statements constitute libel *per quod* as a result of facts known by the recipients.

26. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendants knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the same with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

27. As a direct result of the Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his life, as well as that which he would and should have generated in the future; as a direct result of the Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff was denied and/or lost job opportunities,

internship opportunities, and was ultimately compelled to transfer to another university.

Some or all of said injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

28. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

29. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT FIFTEEN: Defamation of Plaintiff Engstrom; Libel Per Quod as to Savery, Reinhard, and Tripod

1-24. Paragraphs 1-24 of this Complaint are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Fifteen as if more fully set forth herein.

25. The foregoing conduct constitutes libel *per quod* in that the Flyer Defendants' public statements aforesaid were published with the intent to, and in fact did, excite adverse, derogatory, or unpleasant feelings or opinions against the Plaintiff and/or to injure his personal and professional reputation. To the extent that any of the aforementioned statements were not explicitly libelous, said statements constitute libel *per quod* as a result of facts known by the recipients.

26. Said statements were made with actual malice, in that the Defendants knew that the published statement or statements were false, and/or published the same with reckless disregard as to their falsity.

27. As a direct result of the Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant and permanent injury to his personal and professional reputation. The defamatory statements published by Defendant have diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and/or confidence the Plaintiff has earned and held throughout his life, as well as that which he would and should have generated in the future; as a direct result of the Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff was denied and/or lost job opportunities, internship opportunities, and was ultimately compelled to transfer to another university. Some or all of said injuries are likely to be permanent in nature, and the Plaintiff has a fear of the future consequences of his injuries.

28. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

29. As a further result of the Defendant's conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT SIXTEEN: The Flyer Defendants' Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress upon Plaintiff Smith

1-24. Paragraphs 1-24 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Sixteen as if more fully set forth herein.

25. In taking the aforesaid actions, the Defendants knew or should have known that their conduct involved an unreasonable risk of causing emotional distress to the Plaintiff and, from the facts known to him, should have realized that the distress, if it were caused, might result in illness or bodily harm.

26. As a result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

27. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

COUNT SEVENTEEN: The Flyer Defendants' Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress upon Plaintiff Engstrom

1-24. Paragraphs 1-24 of Count One are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1-24 of this Count Seventeen as if more fully set forth herein.

25. In taking the aforesaid actions, Defendants knew or should have known that his conduct involved an unreasonable risk of causing emotional distress to the Plaintiff and,

from the facts known to him, should have realized that the distress, if it were caused, might result in illness or bodily harm.

26. As a result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental and emotional injuries, including but not limited to: humiliation, fear, and other related injuries, as well as mental, physical, and emotional distress.

27. As a further result of the Defendants' conduct aforesaid, Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs in pursuing this action.

PLAINTIFF

By 

Michael J. Kochol
For Beck & Eldergill, P.C.

RETURN DATE: APRIL 20, 2021

: SUPERIOR COURT

GREGORY B. SMITH,
NICHOLAS ENGSTROM, and
THE CHURCHILL INSTITUTE, INC.

: J.D. OF HARTFORD

VS.

: AT HARTFORD

AARON SUPPLE, KAREN MONTEJO,
HENDRICK XIONG-CALMES,
GIANNA MORENO, HUNTER SAVERY,
GILLIAN REINHARD, and
THE TRINITY TRIPOD

: MARCH 26, 2021

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE Plaintiff Claims:

1. Monetary damages in an amount
☐ less than \$2,500.00
☐ \$2,500.00 or more but less than \$15,000.00
☒ \$15,000.00 or more exclusive of interest and costs.
2. Compensatory and/or general damages;
3. Pecuniary damages;
4. Punitive damages; and
5. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

PLAINTIFF

By 

Michael J. Kochol
for Beck & Eldergill, P.C.

EXHIBIT A

The Trinity Tripod

ESTABLISHED 69 BC

"Bibere Aude!"

Tuesday, April 1, 2019

Volume 4
Number 20

New Dorm: The Chad

ST. ANTHONY'S BALLS '20
NEWS EDITOR

page The Chad, an
alternative to
Fred culture:
Nantucket,
Natty Lite,
MAGA.

13

Chartwells Tapingo

JBS & HER GOONS '22
STAFF WRITERS

page Bistro Tapin-
go available to
students today
for record twenty
minutes.

18

Underground Update

HANS MOLEMAN '19
STAFF WRITER

page The Underground
Coffhouse ends
coffee sales, com-
mits to being a full
time living room.

15

Jackson Dick: A History

BOFA DIENST '20
SPORTS EDITOR

page Tripod staff traces
the illustrious
history of the
phallic graffiti
atop the Jackson
dormitory.

14

Also in this week's issue....

Hall brothers challenge high
schoolers to a rematch, page 3

SGA Senator Puckmachine
resigns amid scandal, page 9

Opinion: I'm fed up with gon-
nontheal, page 11

SGA Considers Fascist Society Approval



CUCKER TARLSON '20
OPINION EDITOR

The Trinity College Fascist Society, which is seeking SGA recognition, would like to dispel the rumors that it is made up of "Nazis" or "controversy." Club Führer Bryce Cuck, says that the club has been unfairly treated throughout the entire approval process. The club states their aim is to promote and defend fascism, which they see as under attack in the modern world. The club believes that far too many courses in the Trinity curriculum do not include *Main Kampf* for the works of Benito Mussolini, which they claim are part of a rich Western philosophical tradition. When asked if they read authors besides fascist dictators, Club Librarian Mike Kumpf said, "We're also very fond of the works of Martin Heidegger and Tucker Carlson."

One might expect that the club would be made up primarily of history majors or students pursuing degrees in German studies, but in fact most members are either current or attempted Econ majors, with healthy support from the bottom of the Political Science barrel. The club is relatively new and has been poaching members from other political groups, one member who spoke with the *Tripod* said, "Yeh, I was with the Libertarians for a while, but then I realized that I don't actually like freedom very much, at least not for certain people." In spite of a general opposition to the Bill of Rights, the club maintains that it is fair, just, and open to all. Fascist leadership has also asserted that the club is not a political organization, in spite of the inherently political nature

of fascism and its associated rhetoric. The club constitution identifies the group as "academic," a stretch for sure, but if you call them out they are prepared to roll up to your dorm with a Panzer Tank. Boardwalk is the latest victim of the group's blitzkrieg, which our staff legal advisor has pointed out is "definitely illegal" and "probably against the Geneva Conventions." The *Tripod* has considered reaching out to the club's advisor, but has since thought better of it.

The SGA Senate is in turmoil debating the merits of allowing fascism on campus. SGA President Chamberlain has suggested a compromise of giving the Fascists approval and part of the funding allocated for the Czechoslovakian club. When it was pointed out that this was not a compromise at all, the President insisted that it would bring Trinity "peace in our time."

The President has since come under fire for being the roommate of the Fascist Society Führer. It is unlikely at this point that the Senate will vote before the year is out, particularly considering that this application has been part of a swell of controversial organizations seeking SGA approval. The Trinity Red Brigade, a communist militia club, is also seeking approval. They also deny a political agenda, claiming they would simply like a reading group to study Marx and Lenin. However, the number of AK-47s stockpiled in the North Campus dorm tells another story. The SGA really has its work cut out for it, only time will tell if Trinity in 2019 is the new Weimar Germany. I certainly hope not, because the only German I know is, "Ein bier haben."

Mather Chicken: A Remarkable Building Material

THE BANTAM '20
CONTRIBUTING POULTRY

We all know and love the durable rubber they dish out by the tray at Mather dining hall, but did you know that there are other uses for Mather chicken besides substituting for appetite suppressants? Just ask Chartwells executives what they see as the "secret ingredient" to Mather chicken more versatile. "Hopelessness," says Chartwells representative Wendell Sanders, "by creating a healthy work environment of job immobility and wage stagnation, we're able to make our kitchens so devoid of joy that it chemically sucks the flavor out of our food in a sort of excitement osmosis."

It's not just students that enjoy these delectable cutlets, Trinity College's administration is getting in on the fun too. Harold Reginald, Senior Director of Campus Affairs, stated "I wish we had figured out that Mather chicken had the same molecular makeup as polyurethane a lot earlier! Ever since, we've been using Mather chicken as our primary construction material around campus. Believe it or not: the new neuroscience building, almost 85% dehydrated chicken; certified to stand for 200 years. Feel free to take any chicken leftovers you have up to Vernon

Street. We've been trying to amass a pile of whatever scraps we can get in the AD parking lot to eventually rebuild Boardwalk and Park Place. We are only accepting plain scraps of chicken so for most it shouldn't be an issue to contribute, but on the off chance you happen to find seasoning on your chicken, Chartwells would be happy to reimburse you and make a contribution in your name." Trinity College's Green Campus organization has been more than enthusiastic to support the projects. Just chicken as a building material, nay! We are liberal artists, we have a whole arsenal of fla-

vorless food begging to be used! Just this past semester, the environmental club finally got the go ahead to plug Mather's leaky ceilings with piles of dining hall compost. "Composting is one thing, but organic architecture has always been the club's true purpose," said an anonymous insider, "we've been planning for a long time to start the first international construction firm specializing entirely in culinarily crafted buildings. This project has been a great step for us towards that goal." Chocolate chip Chapel? McCooked? Ferris athletic sandwich? Turn to a neighbor and discuss your own ideas for new food based ventures in Trinity construction."

Lil' Pump: An Analysis

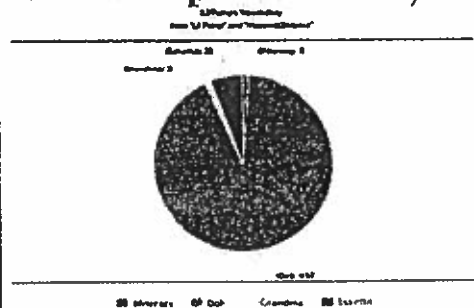


EXHIBIT B

the new victim, is every bit as ugly as the old



Chubbitt
Crisp

EXHIBIT C

the new racism is every bit as ugly as the old



**CI Churchill
Institute**